

**INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL PROJECTS (R1 SMALL GRANTS)
FY 2013 FINAL* REPORT**

Project Title: Oregon White Oak Restoration: North Baskett Butte and Maple Knoll RNA

Station: Willamette Valley NWRC

Contact Person: Jock Beall, Refuge Biologist

Project Description: This project was the initial work needed to preserve the existing oak habitat on WVNWRC by eliminating the Douglas fir overstory. North Baskett Butte, on Baskett Slough NWR, has oak woodland that has had serious encroachment by Douglas fir trees. Maple Knoll Research Natural Area (RNA), located on William L. Finley NWR, also has Douglas fir encroaching and out-competing the Oregon white oak habitat. The priority treatment area on Maple Knoll was the oak savannah edge that is adjacent to Field 55, a 25 acre prairie restoration site on which work began three years prior. Selective cutting of trees using directional falling is used to protect residual oaks. On a per treated acre basis, this will result in complete eradication of Douglas fir on both sites. Removal of whole trees from the site was planned as a separate action (covered by partners and/or with other funding sources). When extracted, all larger diameter logs are made available for in-stream restoration projects. The remaining smaller logs are utilized for wood products through stewardship via Cooperative Agreement. Slash is cleaned up mechanically and pile burned. This project will result in the eradication of Douglas-fir on approximately 64 acres.

Invasive Species Targeted: Douglas fir

Project Completion Date or Estimated Completion Date: August 2014

Project Results: Douglas fir was cut and removed from 12 acres on Maple Knoll. Refuge staff fell the trees and the refuge used a rental forestry skidder for tree removal. Six log truck loads went to Long Tom Watershed Council for stream restoration projects. Stumps were ground to facilitate future mowing, slash was piled and burned. The site is ready for understory prairie restoration as part of the FY13 Cooperative Recovery Initiative to work towards recovery of the Fender's blue butterfly.

Completed work on North Baskett Butte included mapping (52 acres) and a detailed forestry cruise (Salem BLM and Polk County SWCD). This inventory showed 987 trees; which will yield approx. 810 stream restoration logs, 500 to Portland Water Bureau and 300 to Rickreal Watershed Council. Skid lanes and deck locations were planned and treated. Tree falling will continue through April 2014 and removal is planned for the following May-August. Work schedule for falling and removal was interrupted by the government shutdown period. Unfortunately the refuge lost almost two weeks of skidder rental time (it was rented for 1 month) because of the shutdown in October, which delayed implementation at Baskett Butte.

Number of Acres Treated: North Baskett Butte- 3 acres; treatment not completed, in progress

Number of Acres Inventoried and/or Mapped: North Baskett Butte- 52 acres

Number of Acres Restored: Both sites in progress (restoration not considered complete)

Total Grant Amount: \$40,000

Breakdown of Expenditures:

Category	Total \$ Spent	% of Total Grant
Equipment/Supplies	\$10,440	26%
Chemical		
Biocontrol Agents		
Travel		
Biotech/Contractor Salary	\$27,760	69%
Restoration Materials (seed)	\$800	2%
Other (Describe) aerial monitoring	\$1,000	3%
TOTAL	\$40,000	100%

*Project not completed, report is interim for FY2013